

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 have been examined on their merits.

Applicant thanks the Patent Office for indicating that claims 12-17 are allowed.

Applicant herein cancels claims 5-7 without prejudice and/or disclaimer.

Claims 1-4 and 8-17 are all the claims presently pending in the application.

1. Claims 1, 2 and 8-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Sevcik (U.S. Patent No. 6,667,569) in view of Bjornberg *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,647,111). Applicant traverses the § 103(a) rejection of claims 1, 2 and 8-11 for at least the reasons discussed below.

Applicant has amended independent claim 1 with the recitations of cancelled claims 5-7, which were objected to the by Patent Office but indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant submits that independent claim 1 is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 12, and further submits that claims 2, 10 and 11 are allowable as well, at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 1. Applicant requests that the Patent Office withdraw the § 103(a) rejection of claims 1, 2, 10 and 11.

Applicant has amended independent claims 8 and 9 with the recitations of cancelled claims 5-7, which were objected to the by Patent Office but indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant submits that independent claims 8 and 9 are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 12, and requests that the Patent Office withdraw the § 103(a) rejection of claims 8 and 9.

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2. Claims 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Sevcik in view of Bjornberg *et al.* and in further view of Travis Russell, *Signaling System* #7, McGraw-Hill, 2nd ed., (1998). Applicant traverse the § 103(a) rejection of claims 3 and 4 for at least the following reasons.

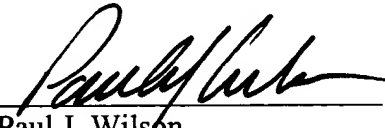
Claims 3 and 4 depend from claim 1, and thereby incorporate all the recitations of claim 1 by virtue of their dependency. Applicant has amended independent claim 1 with the recitations of cancelled claims 5-7, which were objected to the by Patent Office but indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant submits that claims 3 and 4 are allowable as well, at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 1. Applicant requests that the Patent Office withdraw the § 103(a) rejection of claims 3 and 4.

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In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


Paul J. Wilson
Registration No. 45,879

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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